(c) In the accidents on Western Railway, 37 persons lost their lives and the loss to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 29.39 lakhs approximately.

(d) No compensation has been paid to the victims and next of kins of the deceased, involved in the above accidents so far. The same will be paid immediately on being awarded by *adhoc/ex-officio* Claims Commissioner.

(e) All these accidents were inquired into either by the Departmental Inquiry Committees or by the Commissioners of Railway Safety functioning under the control of Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(f) Railway staff of the categories of Drivers, Permanent Way Inspectors, Gangmate/Mate, Train Examiners, Workshop staff, Cabinmen, Gatemen and Guard were held responsible for majority of these accidents on Western Railway. Road users were responsible for 11 per cent of these accidents.

(g) Some of the preventive measures taken to avoid the recurrence of train accidents and to increase efficiency are as under:

(i) Intensification of field inspections and counselling of staff.

(ii) Identification of accident-prone areas by High level Safety Teams and remedial measures thereon.

(iii) Induction of modern technological aids like ultrasonic testing of rails and rolling stock axles provision of track circuiting, axle counters, auxiliary warning system, etc.

(iv) Programmed rehabilitation of assets.

(v) Improvement in quality of staff training.

Demand for Extension of Long Distant Train in Saurashtra Region

937. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some demands from VIPs, MPs, various organisations have been received during 1st January, 1987 to 11th February, 1988 to extend long distant trains like Navjivan Express and Sarvodaya Express etc. upto Saurashtra region;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof of such demands;

(c) what action has been taken thereon and the outcome thereof;

(d) what are the trains presently running upto Saurashtra region of Gujarat; and

(e) what are the reasons for not providing such trains so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) and (e) Yes, Sir. Suggestions have been received for extension of long distance trains like Navjivan Express, Sarvodaya Express, Ahmedabad-Howrah Express to Rajkot/Hapa in Saurashtra. These suggestions have not been found viable due to inadequate through traffic. Besides, through reservation facilities are available for Howrah, Madras, Hyderabad, Delhi etc.

(d) Following long distance trains are available for the Saurashtra region in Gujarat:—

(1) 5/6 Bombay-Okha Saurashtra Mail.

(2) 15/16 Bombay-Porbandar Saurashtra Express.

(3) 17/18 Bombay-Hapa Saurashtra Janata Express.

(4) 31/32 Bombay-Gandhidham Express.

Port Blair Harbour

938. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state what action Government propose to take to improve natural harbour of Port Blair which is of national importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): The Govern-

ment is constructing an additional berth at Port Blair to cope with the increase in traffic. This is apart from the Wharf constructed at Hope Town and two berths constructed at Phoenix Bay for inter-Island vessels and five ferry jetties constructed during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Shipping Service from Visakhapatnam to Port Blair

939. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether Government propose to have shipping transportation from Visakhapatnam to Port Blair on a regular basis keeping in view the importance of both the ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Shipping Corporation of India offer sailings to and from Visakhapatnam to Port Blair once every three months as decided by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration. Assessment of the passenger and cargo prospects in this sector does not show prospects for more frequent sailings.

Increase in TB Cases

940. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than two lakhs people suffer from TB in the country;

(b) if so, whether this figure has been increasing considerably year after year; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to provide maximum relief to the T.B. patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no evidence to suggest that prevalance of TB disease is increasing every year. However, due to increase in the population, and prevalence rate remaining almost the same, the absolute No. of Tuberculosis cases is increasing every year.

(c) Under the National TB Control Programme a District TB Centre is being established in every district of the country by the States to organise a community wide District TB Programme in association with the General Health Institutions of the District to offer free diagnosis, treatment and preventive facilities to the patients and to the community. So far 371 District TB Centres have been established in the country.

Besides, 300 TB clinics are also functioning. About 46,000 TB beds are also available in the country to cater to the needs of emergent, complicated cases and patients requiring surgical intervention.

BCG Vaccination is being given as a preventive measure under the Universal Immunization Programme.

Anti TB Drugs, X-ray Machine/film rolls and equipment are supplied to the States/UTs by the Centre under the National TB Control Programme. Drugs are supplied to the TB patients free of cost. In order to reduce the duration of treatment, short-course Chemotherapy has already been introduced in 44 districts and 75 more districts are being covered during the current year.

Legislation on Removal of Kidneys of Persons Meeting Fatal Accidents

941. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Singapore has recently allowed the removal of kidneys of persons meeting fatal accidents;

(b) whether Government of India also propose to enact such a legislation to enable the Doctors to remove kidneys of the persons meeting fatal accidents to benefit the kidney patients in the country; and